

DATE 1/25/11
HB Commerce

January 14, 2011

Dore Schwinden
Director
Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620-0501

Re: Commendation of Energy Promotion and Development Division's assistance to NaturEner

Dear Director Schwinden:

NaturEner USA has invested \$550 million to develop the 210 MW Glacier Wind Farm, constructed in 2008/2009, which is the largest wind generation facility in Montana. Our next project, the Rim Rock Wind Farm, is scheduled to commence construction once the transmission line known as Montana Alberta Tie Line (MATL), connecting the Montana electrical system to the electrical grid in Alberta, is finished and fully operational. Following that date, the Rim Rock Wind project could be operating within 18 months afterwards, and would become one of the largest wind farms in the nation.

Our investment in Rim Rock will be about \$700 million when completed, making our total investment in Montana in excess of \$1.2 billion between the Glacier Wind and Rim Rock Wind projects. This investment translates into the generation of enough clean energy to power about 156,000 homes and the creation of over 1,200 total man-years of construction jobs, including 500 direct construction jobs, 50 permanent jobs and over \$17 million annually in taxes and payments to landowners.

The Energy Promotion and Development Division of the Montana Department of Commerce has provided very helpful support to NaturEner for both of these projects. We have consistently relied on the Division, along with the Governor's Office, to provide guidance and direction on regulatory and financing issues that have been critical to the success of our projects. They have been particularly helpful on key transmission issues related to MATL as well as regulatory issues involving different Regulatory bodies.

The support that we have received from the Energy Promotion and Development Division has greatly facilitated our accomplishments on these two wind farm projects and our progress would not have been as smooth or as timely as it has been without the Division's capable assistance. NaturEner needs this type of support and partnership to be successful and I urge the State of Montana to continue to fully fund the Energy Promotion and Development Division.

Sincerely,

José María Sanchez Seara Chief Executive Officer